

Appln. No. 10/070,884

Attorney Docket No. 11721-018

II. Remarks

The independent claims presented in this Response have been amended to clarify, more particularly to point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants regard as the subject matter of the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the controller detects a location of an impact event along the structural element by determining which bend sensitive elements are activated and which bend sensitive elements are not activated based on a detected change in each of the independent resistance output signals. Claims 8 and 15 have been amended to recite that the controller detects a location of an impact along the structural element by determining which deformation sensor elements are activated and which deformation sensors are not activated based on a detected change in each of the variable output signals.

In view of the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

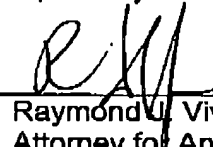
SUMMARY

Pending Claims 1, 4-8, 10, and 13-20 as amended are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

January 31, 2005

Date

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